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An  
Inaugural Dissertation  
on  
Mania a potu.

By  
James A. Washington  
of

North Carolina—

Read March 22 1826

Chapman & Co.

James A. Smith

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The disease, upon which, it is proposed to make a few remarks, has been variously designated. Its mental alienation forms its most prominent feature, and as it, almost exclusively, arises from the excessive use of ardent spirits, the term *mania a potu*, is, perhaps, its most appropriate appellation. After a course of intoxication has been kept up for some time, and then abruptly discontinued, the disease is generally observed, gradually to make its approach.

The previous excitement has now passed away, the muscular power is peculiarly enfeebled, as well of the involuntary, as of the voluntary muscles — The flesh loses its tone and compactness, and all the motions of the patient are unsteady & languid — The peristaltic movements of the bowels is suspended, unless preternaturally excited by their acrimonious contents — In noticing the muscular relaxation, we are, by no means

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to over-look the heart & blood vessels - The heart now throbs but with little force, and the pulse beats but feebly - thus we see, that the naturally exciting & tonic influence of the vital fluid is, in a measure, with-drawn from the whole system.

The *prima via* are, at this early stage, particularly disordered - The powers of the Stomach are enfeebled, and digestion is almost entirely suspended - We find the stomach nauseated and irritable, and hence the rejection of almost every thing which may be taken in - with this important exception, however, that a little stimulus will be retained when every thing else would be cast out - The bowels will, almost always, be found inclined to costiveness, which is attributable, as much to their suspended functions in other respects, as to the suspension of their peristaltic motion. The brain & whole nervous System seem to

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have lost much of their power - and hence the immediate cause of the nervous tremours, which slightly exist at a very early period.

Such symptoms continuing, about three days, we shall find them superseded by mania a potius, properly so called. - What gives to this stage, its distinctive character, is the mental derangement induced by the peculiar implication of the brain - We do not, however, find that full tide of arterial blood, rushing to the brain, which is observed to take place, in phrenitis, as indicated by the violent throbbing of the carotid arteries, the highly suffused and florid face, the fierce and glaring eye, the throbbing pulsatile pain throughout the brain, as if it would burst a sunder its opaque envelope - but upon the application of the finger to the carotid artery, we find its beat quick, small and tremulous, indeed it is some times almost imperceptible -

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we shall, at most, but observe the face of a dusky  
red, and not of a scarlet hue. The eye also,  
looks differently from what it does in phrenitis —  
we behold it, indeed, somewhat suffused, but the  
suffusion is not of a high arterial character. —  
Sometimes the pupil is dilated, and this is ob-  
served when the mind is deeply oppressed, and  
the whole system nearly paralyzed — the pa-  
tient seems now, most to resemble one, labour-  
ing under compressed brain from accident. —  
The affection of the mind is of a very interest-  
ing nature — not caused by high arterial  
excitement, we do not find that fierce and in-  
tractable spirit to predominate, which, often,  
it strongly excites mania supervening under  
other circumstances — Sometimes in the com-  
mencement of the mental infirmity, you may  
find it difficult of detection — Your questions  
relative to the affection of different parts, upon

*[Faint, illegible handwriting in cursive script, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*

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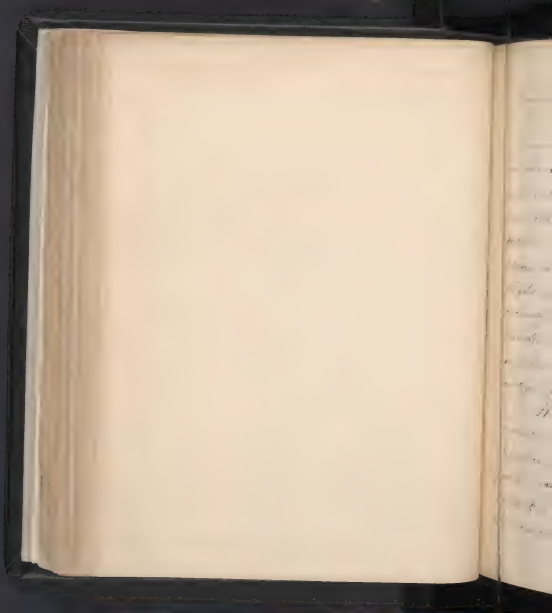
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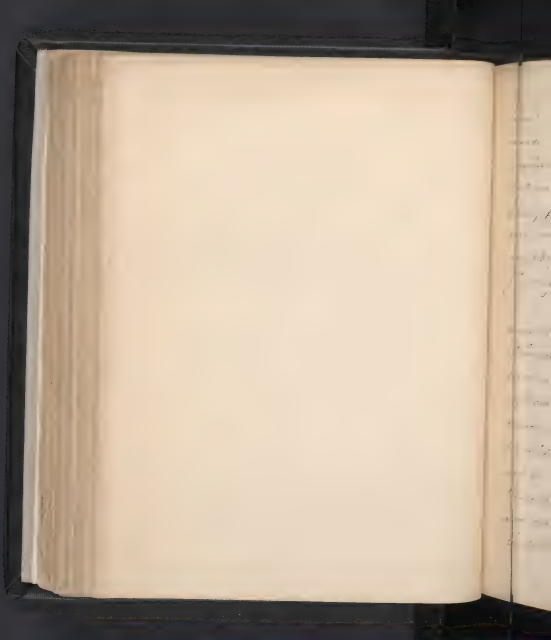


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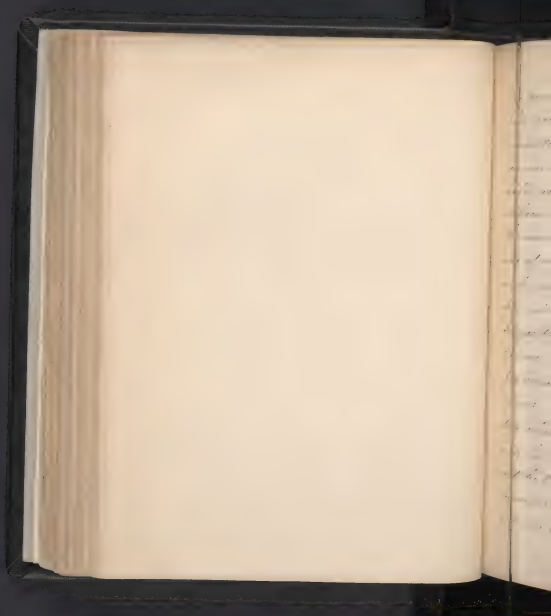
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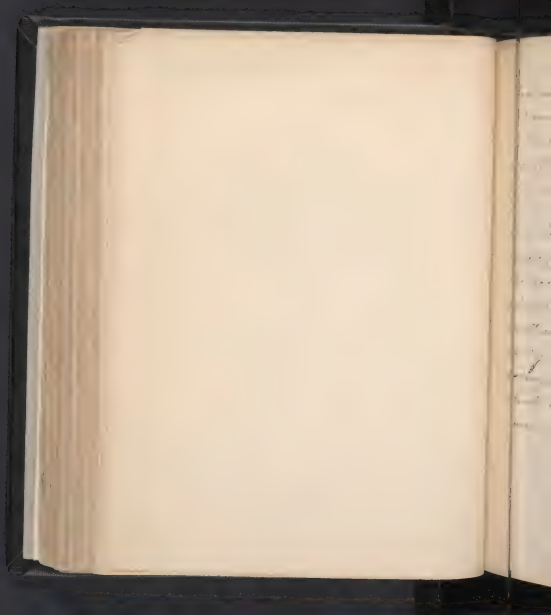










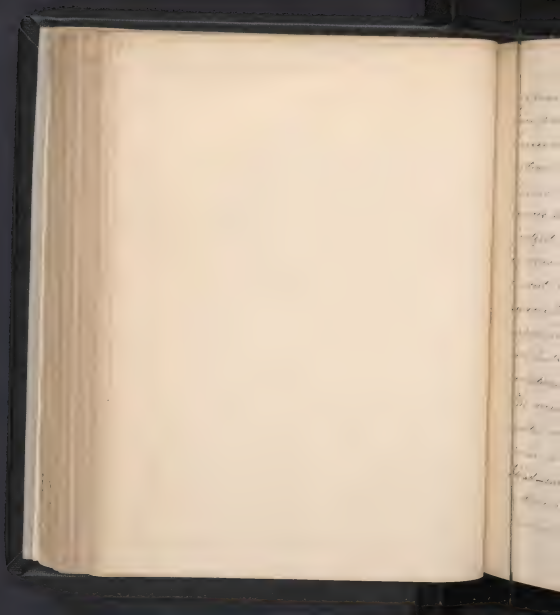




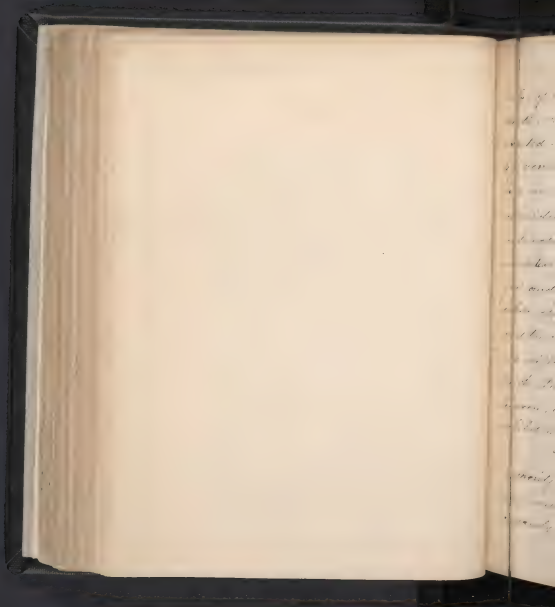






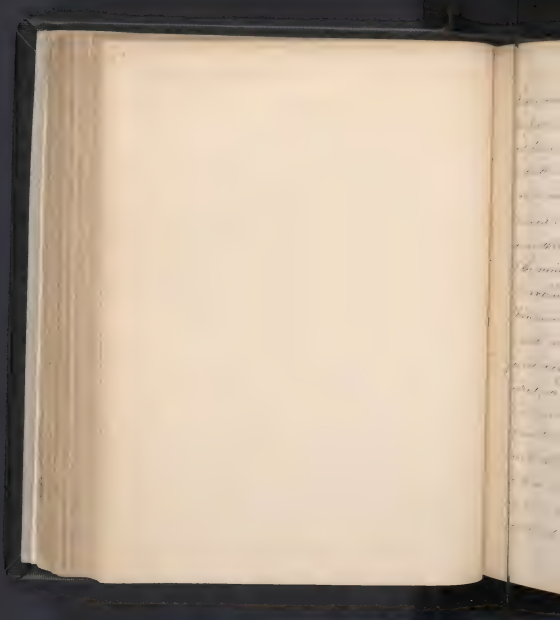


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with it and in the winter season it  
 withered in a few weeks and has  
 started upon the trees and branches  
 by means of sap-suckers & in the spring  
 are in number as a winter tree and in  
 abundance of fruit of the tree the summer  
 with sugar it is not very strong to  
 the tree, which is not the same as  
 and is greatly to be desired the water  
 which appears in the sap of the tree  
 and the abundance of the fruit is in the  
 and is in abundance in the water  
 to the tree water a few minutes with  
 is now, but they are not much to be  
 and is in abundance of fruit to be seen.

And I never have felt and do not feel  
other than that the Government has been  
in the right. I think, however, that  
it is a pity that the Government should be













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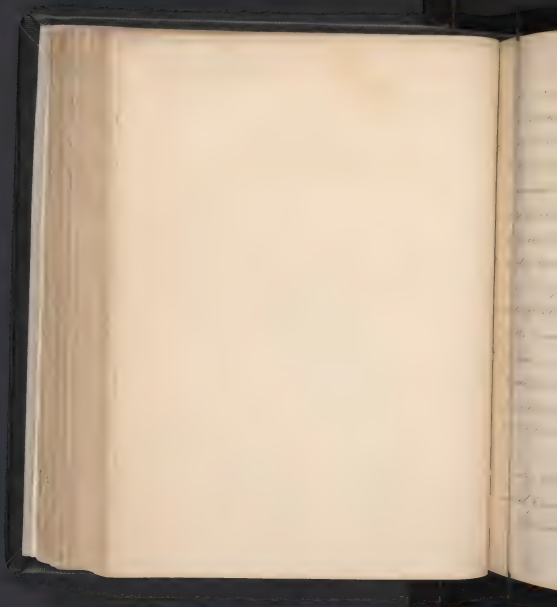


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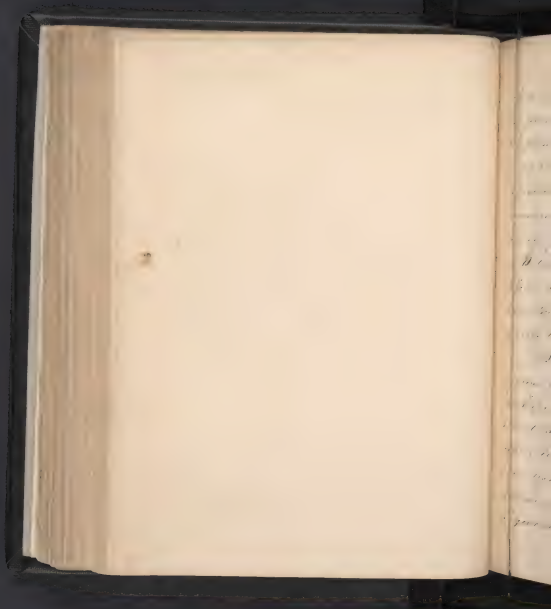


















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if one tries as a means of combatting  
inertia & fatigue there has been much to be  
said. That there may be some such  
case among the diseases appears  
to be doubted. The fact is too well sustained  
to be denied. We may conclude that the  
efficiency is sufficient, not only by length



certainly he has the wisdom of knowing, as  
 he would in some cases, to resist  
 them, and as well that they are the most true  
 in nature, as to what we prefer; that  
 they have the power of removing the  
 sensibilities of the whole eye - he must  
 know the difference - of all the feelings about  
 will be in without sensibly removing of  
 it itself, that they have had a certain feeling  
 of it, they please them, and should be in the  
 imagination - not to move - he must know  
 more of it, directly, a pleasure, and the manner  
 of it, from the fact, from which it can be  
 known, a pleasure, and the manner, and  
 more appears, that they are not a unity  
 the whole, but a combination, especially  
 to define, and finally, that the fact, and  
 and always of being, just must be known  
 the whole, but not the manner, that they



[illegible]





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from the but the appearance of aggrava-  
ting every symptom and apparently the  
system would be better and more  
likely to recover a suitable case from  
the system probably otherwise have  
been, but in this case is very to p  
other idiosyncrasy, as to some other more ob  
vious cause, although the case have conti  
nued for any time, and the powers of life,  
be almost exhausted, to resort to surgery  
would be useless. The system is more so  
already, and in her energies, and the  
system is so broken, that the wide persoa  
ing influence of emetics would be lost  
and an application of the case more likely  
follow this administration. The particular  
state of the liver and of the nervous system,  
should they have long suffered directly  
or functionally, from the abuse of



may counteract, in a considerable degree, the  
the evil of a disease which would be liable  
to result from emetics, &c. instead of causing them  
to produce absolute mischief. It may  
be said, however, as a rule, that emetics  
will rather do a great deal of good, in an  
epidemic outbreak of fever, and particularly  
as regards the constitution of the brain.

Should their operation prove successful, it  
we are to look for its more obvious decon-  
gestive effects upon the vessels therefore the  
use of emetics is not recommended as  
a general practice.

Purgatives, on almost every case, are  
indicated, not with a view however  
to cure the disease but to open the bowels  
which are usually, very constipated, and to car-  
ry off their foul contents. Calomel is  
usually indicated for this purpose.



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never too much, and I am sure it will  
be a great service to the cause  
of the poor by the following.

The most useful way of doing good is  
a few words of praise in the press. It is  
here indeed the most powerful and  
a worthy, & the best recommendation. It is the  
most powerful recommendation of the of the cause  
in repeated doses, and by the press, and  
in the action of facts, or some other  
cause, or if the case should be unusually  
true, the most active efforts of the  
active spirits, even the most dangerous  
employed with the action, this

We have contained in our  
more fully in the treatment of the  
and the most valuable of the  
to refer to Armstrongs most valuable  
action, above all, it is



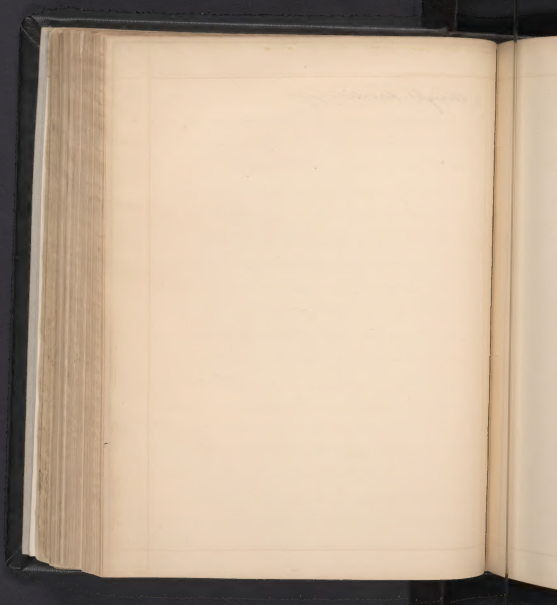


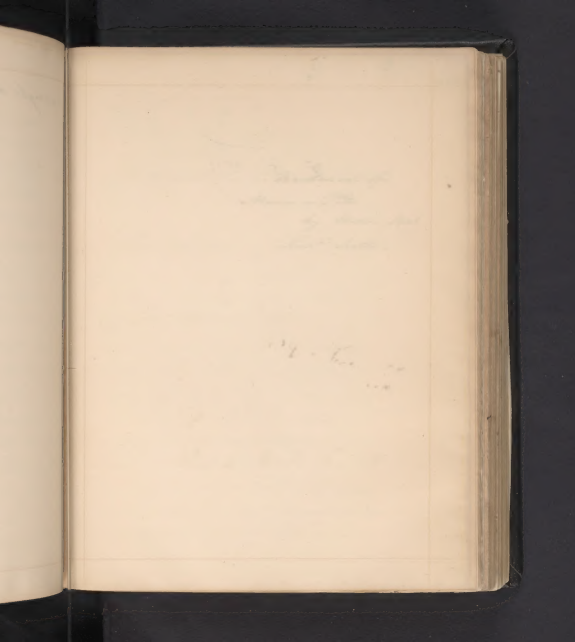
tion of stone, is affluence which we  
have mentioned, and for in the detail of  
what may be required in the management  
of this affection.

The cathartics will prove necessary  
and other, when to be determined by the nature  
of the disease, and by the various degrees  
of it. In a cathartic we must be careful  
to use a moderate dose of medicine, and  
to be careful not to use a large quantity  
in one dose to believe that it has been real-  
ly given beneficial. At the same time of  
digesting the food, and of different sorts  
it is all coming from the same to a certain  
point, and the same, and the same, and the  
different sorts, as usually applied. Thus  
the food ultimately comes at the distant  
place, as a matter of course, from some point  
less, others with a greater deviation from



a straight line







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✓  
Treatments of  
Mania a Potu  
by William Black  
Rich. D. Weston.